

## Moving On!

The Arctic Institute of North America is about to embark on a new era as it welcomes a new chairman of the Board of Directors—and soon, a new executive director as well.

Michel Scott has just completed his third consecutive three-year mandate with the Institute's Board of Directors (the maximum allowed under AINA's by-laws), the last seven years in the position of chairman. Michel has been an avid supporter of the Institute throughout his tenure, lending his support to AINA's many programs, as well as playing a leadership role in solving a number of thorny administrative issues. He was personally involved in raising substantial funding for AINA's photo archive project, which he views as a significant endeavour of the Institute. He was also instrumental in simplifying some of the Institute's administrative procedures, perhaps most importantly, streamlining the annual audit process. Michel never hesitated to make his vast network of personal contacts in industry and government available to the Institute to help generate support for our various programs, such as ASTIS, or special events, like Calgary Opera's world premiere of *Frobisher*, by John Estacio and John Murrell.

On a personal note, I had much pleasure in working with Michel over the past five years and greatly appreciated the trust he placed in my ability to lead the Institute along the lines of the business plan we put together. He was a constant companion through the best and worse times, a sounding board for any new ideas, and an excellent advisor to help me navigate through financial intricacies and a few political quagmires. Michel Scott is to be thanked most warmly for his unconditional support of the Arctic Institute and all the time and effort he devoted to furthering its goals and objectives. Since Michel is also about to retire from his day job as vice-president of Devon Canada, we hope he will enjoy every minute of his long-planned idyllic retirement on Vancouver Island.

Henry Sykes, an AINA Board member since 2008, kindly accepted to become the new chairman of the Board following its June 2010 meeting. In a previous life, Henry was none other than the president of ConocoPhillips Canada. He is currently president of MGM Energy Corp., a small but gutsy company entirely devoted to finding energy resources in northern and Arctic Canada, with a couple of major gas finds in the Mackenzie Corridor and the Mackenzie Delta in its portfolio. A Montréal native who grew up in the same neighbourhood where I did (it's a small world), Henry is a lawyer by training, with an uncanny ability to understand budget sheets like no one else. He brings to the Arctic Institute both a passion for the North and a broad appreciation of its many aspects, including the need for establishing sound relationships with aboriginal peoples, both First Nations and Inuit. Like Michel Scott before him, Henry will no doubt use his vast network from Calgary to Iqaluit to benefit the Arctic Institute. The Institute is poised to thrive under his leadership. When talking about the North and its people, Henry was recently quoted as saying:

I could live there. The people have a will and a stamina you have to admire. And the land—when you see the tundra and the sun blazing across the vast skyline, it's peaceful. It's immense.<sup>1</sup>

Finally, I have myself announced to the Board of Directors, and indeed to the entire staff of the Institute, that I will not seek a second mandate as AINA's executive director. After five years at the helm, it is now time for me to move on. While AINA has allowed me to indulge in my Arctic interests with a passion and a freedom like never before, I have come to realize that it is research and the training and mentoring of young scientists in the many academic and logistic aspects of Arctic inquiry that keep me happy. I will therefore simply step down from my administrative duties to concentrate more fully on this passion of mine. I am certainly proud of my record at the helm of the Institute for the past five years, much of which I spent establishing solid and productive relationships with our host the University of Calgary, as well as our many partners in governments, industry, and academia across Canada and abroad. From solving sensitive administrative issues, to raising resources for our various programs, to establishing a solid Arctic Institute presence in Canada's High Arctic, the time I spent with the Arctic Institute will remain deeply ingrained in me as a very positive episode of my life that formed a bridge between a long career as a government scientist and, I hope, an equally long career as a university professor. Sometime between now and July 2011, when a new executive director is firmly in place, I will continue in my position as professor in the Department of Geoscience at the University of Calgary.

So there it is: today we say goodbye to a remarkable individual, Michel Scott, who has led the Institute through tumultuous times, and orchestrated a spectacular turnaround. We say hello to an equally remarkable person, Henry Sykes, whose *savoir-faire* is bound to take the Institute to new heights. And I personally say goodbye to all of you, members of the Institute and faithful readers of this fine journal. I will devote much of the remaining months I have with the Institute in close collaboration with Henry Sykes and

the other members of the Board, as well as with the University of Calgary's vice-president for research, Dr. Rosie Goldstein, and the University's new president, Dr. Elizabeth Cannon, to ensure a smooth transition to the next executive director. This person, whoever he or she may be, will discover, just as I did five years ago, that the Institute is staffed by the most competent and pleasant group of individuals that probably exists in this country. To Karen McCullough, Ross Goodwin, Mary Li, Trisha Carleton, Pam Scowen, Lynda Howard, Lynne Howard, Andy Williams, and, until recently, Ruth Klinkhammer, my last word goes to you: thanks most sincerely for all your support.

*Benoît Beauchamp, Executive Director  
Arctic Institute of North America*

<sup>1</sup> Quoted from page 28 of "Northern resolve: The lure of the Mackenzie Delta persists through regulatory delays and a bureaucratic fog," by G. Jaremko. *Alberta Oil Magazine*, April/May 2010:26–31.